

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 AID-20 SPM-01

DRC-01 /140 W

----- 107092

R 082111Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9318

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0197

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR NATIONAL SERVICE PROCEED

REF: GEORGETOWN 1871, DECEMBER 21, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE SECRETARIAT ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SERVICE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY HAVE PUBLICIZED DETAILS OF PLAN NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON VOLUNTARY BASIS IN JULY. EVEN THIS LIMITED VERSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE FACES OBSTACLES IN INITIAL COSTS OF PROGRAM AND INCREASING NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING TO LEAVE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. PLANS TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM OF NATIONAL SERVICE IN GUYANA (REFTEL) ARE PROCEEDING DESPITE MANY UNANSWERED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE SECRETARIAT, WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS, ARE TRAVELLING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO PUBLICIZE AND ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THEIR REMARKS TO VARIOUS GROUPS, NATIONAL SERVICE WILL BEGIN IN JULY 1974 WITH VOLUNTEERS

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IN PIONEER CORPS (AGES 18 TO 25). REPORTEDLY, MORE THAN

ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS , FORTY PERCENT OF THEM WOMEN, HAVE APPLIED FOR THIS INITIAL STAGE. MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SERVICE SECRETARIAT ALSO STATE THAT WORK ON INFRASTRUCTURE AT SITES IN INTERIOR, WHERE VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK AND STUDY, IS UNDERWAY IN BERVICE, NORTHWEST, UPPER MAZARUNI, AND RUPUNUNI AREAS. BEGINNING FEBRUARY 15, AT SITE AT KIMBIA ON BERBICE RIVER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY NATIONAL SERVICE INSTRUCTORS WILL RECEIVE TRAINING.

3. AT SAME TIME, PRESS CAMPAIGN ENTITLED "NATIONAL SERVICE AND YOU" ATTEMPTING TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS OF MANY MIDDLE CLASS GUYANESE AND GUYANESE OF EAST INDIAN DESCENT. CAMPAIGN STRESSES THAT NATIONAL SERVICE WILL NOT INVOLVE BRAINWASHING, WILL NOT BE COMPULSORY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, WILL NOT THREATEN FAMILY LIFE, AND WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH RELIGIOUS PRACTICES; RATHER, IT WILL BUILD NATIONAL UNITY, TEACH SELF-RELIANCE, AND HELP DEVELOP NATION.

4. COMMENT: REPORTS BY CONSULAR SECTIONS AT THIS EMBASSY AND CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION OF LARGE INCREASE IN VISA APPLICATIONS BY YOUNG PEOPLE INDICATE GOV UNSUCCESSFUL SO FAR IN EFFORT TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF NATIONAL SERVICE. ANY EFFORT TO MAKE NATIONAL SERVICE COMPULSORY OR EVEN PERCEPTION BY GUYANESE THAT IT WILL EVENTUALLY BE MADE COMPULSORY WILL ONLY DRIVE OUT MORE RAPIDLY THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDED TO BUILD COUNTRY. GUYANA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS ALSO POSES PROBLEMS FOR NATIONAL SERVICE. BUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AT SITES IN INTERIOR WILL HAVE HIGH INITIAL COST, REPORTEDLY ESTIMATED AT TEN MILLION DOLLARS (GUYANA) BY NATIONAL SERVICE STAFF MEMBER. 1974 BUDGET INCLUDES ONE MILLION DOLLARS (GUYANA) FOR NATIONAL SERVICE ADDING FURTHER BURDEN TO ALREADY STRAINED BUDGET. KING

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## Message Attributes

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